

Confidential until released

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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The U. S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba (in partial fulfillment of the commitment made by Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy). Beginning today, it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U. S. naval vessels. Soviet vessels are cooperating in this procedure. *It is understood that*

As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U. S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded onto the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. *Photographs and visual inspection from U. S. naval vessels will provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.*

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the commitment. These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verification.

*Understanding concluded  
between Chairman K. Khrushchev  
and President Kennedy*